(c) In view of the allocations of gas already made along the HBJ pipeline, and its capacity, additional allocations could not be made.

Proposal to lay New-Sea Pipeline to Hazira

2481. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to lay a new-sea pipeline to bring more offshore gas to Hazira;

(b) if so, whether there is also a proposal to augment the capacity of HBJ pipeline to further carry this gas in the country;

(c) the names of the users of this gas, quantity-wise;

(d) what is the total cost involved in augmenting the capacity of HBJ pipeline; and

(e) whether it is economical to supply this additional offshore gas for power generation at coastal locations to Gujarat in view of any coal linkage being non-feasible for new power plants in Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The gas has been allocated to various consumers in the power, fertiliser and other sectors.

(d) Approximately Rs. 2500 crores.

(e) This does not arise as these supplies are to meet allocations already made.

Partnership for Oil Exploration with Sri Lanka

2482. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal under consideration to enter into a joint venture for oil exploration with Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been arrived at with the Government of Sri Lanka;

(c) if so, the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(d) the details of the fields where joint oil exploration work would be taken up in the country; and

(e) to what extent the production of oil is likely to be boosted ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (e) ONGC Videsh Limited and Ceylon Petroleum Corporation (CPC) are examining the techno-economic feasibility of a common venture and no agreement has been reached.

New Reserves of Oil/Gas

2483. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of coastal and offshore new reserves of oil/gas found after 1991 which can be exploited for commercial production of petroleum products; and

(b) by when production from these reserves is likely to begin together with the quantum of annual production likely to be undertaken ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) During the period January-October 1992, oil and gas accumulations have been found in 7 prospects in the offshore area. Delineation etc. are in hand to determine whether any of these prospects are commercially exploitable.

Requirement and Production of Petroleum Products

2484. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of petroleum products likely to be produced against the actual requiremnt in the country during the current financial year; and

(b) the time by which India is likely to attain self-sufficiency in the production of petroleum products ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The total quantum of petroleum products likely to be produced in the country is 50.8 MMT against the estimated requirement of 61.5 MMT during the current financial year.

(b) There are plans to augment the refining capacity in public as well as in private sector.

Loss of Property due to fire accident in ONGC (Makarpura)

2485. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the loss of property suffered by Government due to the fire accident in the Department of Construction and Maintenance of Oil and Natural Gas Commission (O.N.G.C.) during May, 1992 in Makarpura, near Vadodra;

(b) whether investigation report in connection with this accident has been received; and

(c) if so, the drawbacks found in it and the action being taken by Government in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Preliminary enquiry estimated a loss of about Rs. 5 to 7 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Transfer of various Profit Earning Organisations to GAIL

2486. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission has taken any action regarding transfer of various profit earning gas organisations to Gas Authority of India Limited;

(b) if so, the justification thereof and the number of such gas organisations transferred so far to Gas Authority of India Limited alongwith their moveable and immovable properties;

(c) whether there is wide spread resentment among the employees of the Commission against this action; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (d) The gas marketing functions of ONGC, alongwith related assets, have been transferred to GAIL, which was set up in 1984 with the mandate of transporting, processing and marketing of natural gas, after taking into account all relevant considerations including the various representations received from employees.

Setting up of Refinery in Maharashtra

2487. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a Rs. 3,000 crore refinery in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what will be the exact location thereof and by when the same is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Government of India has approved, in principle, the setting up a 6 MMTPA oil refinery in the joint sector in Western India.

Oil Spills in Bombay Offshore

2488. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that huge oil spills were detected recently in Bombay offshore;

(b) what were the reasons for such oil spills; and